



WISCONSIN STATE REPRESENTATIVE
Louis J. Molepske, Jr.
71ST ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

Written Testimony of Louis J. Molepske, Jr.
Assembly Bill 153
Continuing Education for Dentists

Good morning Chairperson Vukmir and Members of the Committee on Health and Healthcare Reform. Representative Molepske had hoped to be here to offer his testimony in person, but unfortunately he had to be in court, and as such, he has asked me to address you on his behalf.

Regardless of an individual's chosen profession, their education does not simply end when they complete their formal schooling. Instead, employees of all professions continue to learn new skills as they accumulate experience. For a number of professions, particularly those that are self-regulating, the best means of imparting new schools of thought and tools of the trade is by offering continuing education courses. Continuing education courses supply practitioners with the tools they need to provide their customers with the highest quality and most up-to-date services possible, which is obviously advantageous to consumers. In addition, continuing education courses allow practitioners to make themselves more competitive in the marketplace, which benefits them individually as well. Just last session, we passed Act 318 to require continuing education for dental hygienists. However, somewhat surprisingly, Wisconsin is one of only three states that does not require its dentists to complete continuing education courses as a condition of license renewal. In recognition of the myriad benefits of continuing education, the Wisconsin Dental Association worked with us to draft the legislation that is before you today.

Procedurally speaking, this bill is very straightforward. Its only substantive requirement is that all dentists practicing within the State complete 30 hours of continuing education related to the practice of dentistry every two years, including no less than 25 credit hours of instruction in clinical dentistry. Completion of thirty credit hours will be a prerequisite to license renewal. The dental examining board will have the discretion to waive this requirement if it finds that extraordinary circumstances, such as prolonged illness, have prevented a person licensed to practice dentistry from meeting the requirement. We believe that these relatively straightforward requirements will improve both the treatment that dental patients receive as well as satisfaction with the practice of dentistry on the whole. Passage of this bill is simply a reflection of sound public policy: dentists support it, patients support it, and it improves the quality of health care for all.

Again, on behalf of both myself and Representative Molepske, thank you all for your time and consideration of this important legislation. I would appreciate it if you would direct all questions or comments to Representative Molepske at a later time. Thank you.



WISCONSIN STATE REPRESENTATIVE
Louis J. Molepske, Jr.
71ST ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

Assembly Bill 153 Continuing Education for Dentists

- In partnership with the Wisconsin Dental Association, Representatives Strachota and Molepske, along with Senators Erpenbach and Darling, worked together to create uniform standards for continuing education courses for dentists.
- Wisconsin and Colorado are currently the only two states that do not require continuing education courses for dentists. Rhode Island is still finalizing the number of credit hours they will require.
- Technological advances are constantly being made in the health care industry. New procedures and medications are always being developed. To give the best possible care to their patients as well as to allow their dental practice to evolve, dentists want to continue their education throughout their professional careers.
- Under current law, dentists must apply to the Dentistry Examining Board for license renewal every two years.
- This bill prohibits the Board from renewing a dentist's license unless the dentist can demonstrate that he/she has taught, prepared, attended, or otherwise completed 30 credit hours of continuing education related to the practice of dentistry, including not less than 25 credit hours of instruction in clinical dentistry or clinical medicine.
- The bill authorizes the Board to waive the continuing education requirement in exceptional circumstances, such as prolonged illness or disability.
- Assembly Bill 153 currently has bipartisan support from 30 Legislators. Perhaps most importantly, it is supported by the Wisconsin Dental Association.

DISTRICT:
1557 Church Street
Stevens Point, WI 54481
(715) 342-8985
Rep.Molepske@legis.state.wi.us

STATE CAPITOL:
P.O. Box 8953
Madison, WI 53708-8953
Toll-free: 888-534-0071 or (608)267-9649
FAX: (608) 282-3671



PAT STRACHOTA

STATE REPRESENTATIVE

Testimony by Representative Pat Strachota
In Support of AB 153

Thank you Chairperson Vukmir and committee members for bringing this bill before you today.

Last session the Health committee considered, and the full legislature ultimately passed, Act 318 which created uniform continuing education standards for dental hygienists.

Today, I ask you to consider AB 153 which provides similar professional education standards for dentists. The bill mandates a 30 hour continuing education requirement for dentists over their two year licensure period with 25 of those hours to be clinical.

Representative Molepske and I have worked in a bi-partisan manner with the Wisconsin Dental Association to craft this bill. The Dental Association will be testifying on behalf of AB 153 later in the hearing and can answer any technical questions the committee may have.

Many dentists already pursue continuing education on their own because the materials and technology of dentistry has changed greatly over the years. However, health care consumers deserve to know that their dentist is up to date on not only new technology but important regulatory changes.

Wisconsin, Colorado and Wyoming are the only three states in the nation that currently do not have any uniform standards of professional continuing education for dentists.

I urge the committee to support AB 153.

CONTINUING EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS FOR DENTISTS AND AUXILIARIES

State	Required Credit Hours Dentist Hygienist Assistant	Cycle Length	Year (to be) Implemented	Advance Sponsor	Approval Course	How Credit is Monitored & Notes
Alabama ⁽⁵⁾	20	12	1992	yes	yes	Random Audit.
Alaska	28	14	D-1990 H-1991	yes	yes	Sworn statement of compliance submitted for license renewal; records must be produced upon request.
Arizona	72	54	1997	no	no	Affidavit of Compliance; random audit.
Arkansas	50	40	1994	yes	yes	Listed on license renewal form.
California	50	25	1974	yes	yes	Listed on license renewal form; certificate of completion must be produced upon request.
Colorado	NA	NA				
Connecticut	25	16	DH-1989/D-2005	yes	yes	Random audit. Completion Certificate produced on request.
Delaware	50	24	1990	yes	yes	Statement of compliance; records must be produced on request.
D. C.	25	15	1991	yes	yes	Listed on renewal form; completion must be verified by sponsor.
Florida	30	24	DH-1980/D-1985	yes	yes	Affidavit of Compliance; produce records upon request.
Georgia	40	22	1992	yes	yes	Random Audit.
Hawaii	32	20	2002	yes	yes	Submit certificate of completion on renewal; random audit.
Idaho	30	24	1994/2006	yes	yes	Listed on license renewal form. Change to Biennial licensure in 2006.
Illinois ⁽⁶⁾	48	36	1992	yes	yes	Affidavit of Compliance show records upon request. Changed 2005.
Indiana	20	14	1992	yes	yes	Random audit.
Iowa	30	30	1979	yes	yes	Sponsor's attendance list cross-checked with information on renewal form. DAS CE requirement begins July 2001.
Kansas ⁽⁵⁾	60	30	1978	yes	yes	Listed on license renewal form.
Kentucky	15	15	DH-1979/D-1973	yes	yes	Continuing education submitted on credit record annually by 12/31.
Louisiana ⁽⁶⁾	40	24	1995	yes	yes	Reported on form provided; random audit.
Maine	40	30	DH-1992/D-1991	yes	yes	Statement of completion on renewal form; random audit.
Maryland ⁽⁵⁾	30	30	1994/DH2005	yes	yes	Verify compliance on renewal form; maintain records for 5 years and produce upon request.
Massachusetts ⁽⁵⁾	40	20	1982	yes	yes	Listed on license renewal form; records must be produced upon request. Certificate of compliance on renewal form.
Michigan	60	36	1994	yes	yes	Certificate must be kept and produced upon audit.
Minnesota ⁽²⁾	50	25	1969	yes	yes	Random Audit-new 2-yr cycle & hours required effective 2004.
Mississippi	40	20 ⁽⁵⁾	1994	yes	yes	Listed on license renewal form.
Missouri ⁽⁶⁾	50	30	1993	yes	yes	Reported annually on form provided; maintain records for six years; random audit.
Montana ⁽⁶⁾	60	36/48 ^x	1993	yes	yes	^x 2004 Rules require LAP DHs to have add'l 12 hours CE.
Nebraska	30	30	1985	yes	yes	Listed on license renewal form.
Nevada ⁽⁶⁾	20	15	1986	yes	yes	Sworn statement of compliance; random audit.
New Hampshire	40	20	1990	yes	yes	Random audit.
New Jersey	40	20	D-1992, H-1979	no	no	Listed on license renewal form. DAS & DHs req'ts and 2004.
New Mexico	60	45/60	1979	yes	yes	*DH in Collaborative Practice must complete 60 hours. Listed on License renewal form; records must be produced upon request.
New York ⁽⁵⁾	45	24	1987			Certify compliance on renewal; produce records on request.
North Carolina	15	6	1995			Listed on license renewal form; random audit.

CONTINUING EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS OF STATE DENTAL BOARDS FOR DENTISTS AND AUXILIARIES

State	Required Credit Hours Dentist	Hygienist	Assistant	Cycle Length	Year (to be) Implemented	Advance Sponsor	Approval Course	How Credit is Monitored & Notes
North Dakota ⁽⁶⁾	32	16	8/yr.	2	1976/2002		yes	Course outline sent to board after each course.
Ohio ⁽⁵⁾	40	12		2 yrs.	1990	yes	yes	Affidavit of compliance; produce records upon request.
Oklahoma ⁽⁵⁾	60	30	X	3 yrs.	1980			Reported to board on special card after each course.
Oregon	40	24		2 yrs.	1991	yes	yes	Statement of compliance submitted for license renewal.
Pennsylvania	30	20	10	2 yrs.	2001	yes		Documentation submitted with license renewal form.
Rhode Island	60X	30X		2 yrs.	1992/2005			Triennial changed to biennial in 2005, awaiting info on # of credits
South Carolina ^(1,5)	28	14		2 yrs.	1999	yes	yes	Reported to the board annually on form provided.
South Dakota	100	75	60 ⁽³⁾	5 yrs.	1974			Listed on license renewal form; show records on request
Tennessee ⁽⁵⁾	40	30	24	2yrs.	1990 and 2003	yes.		Random audit, 2 hours req'd in Chemical Dependency
Texas	15	15	12*	1 yr.	2001	yes		12 annual, 3 hrs jurisprudence over 3 yrs. *RDA in radiology only
Utah	30	30		2 yrs.	1997			Enacted March 1996.
Vermont	30	12		2 yrs.	D 2006/H 1993	yes	yes	Den-H 871 Stint of compliance for license renewal, subject to audit.
Virginia ⁽⁵⁾	15	15		1 yr.	1995	yes		Statement of compliance submitted for license renewal, subject to audit. Only dentists may carry excess hours to next year cycle.
Washington	21	15		1yr.	1992			Random audit.
West Virginia	35	20		2 yrs.	1996	yes	yes	Report on board form; produce records upon request; audit
Wisconsin	NA	X	NA	-		-		S 95 enacted 4-10-06, rules to be adopted req'd between 12-20 hours.
Wyoming	BLS only	BLS only	NA	1 yr.				Requires annual CE only to renew BLS by dentists & DHs
Puerto Rico	46	24	24	3 yrs.	1976	yes		Reported to board after each course.

Total States* 48

47

14

*District of Columbia and Puerto Rico also require CE for dentists & hygienists.

Several states mandate continuing education on specific subjects:

AIDS/HIV: FL, KY (initial licensure; license renewal); WA (initial licensure)

INFECTIOUS DISEASE CONTROL: AL, AZ, CA, CT, KY, MD, NM, NY, OH, RI, WV, (WI-DHs only)

CHILD ABUSE IDENTIFICATION AND REPORTING: IA - (Dentists only); NY

CPR (or other Life Support e.g. BLS) CERTIFICATION: ID (DH only); AZ, GA, HI, IA, KY, MD, MN, NV, ND, NC, NM, OK, PA, PR, SC, SD, TN, UT, VA, WV, (WI-DHs only);

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE: CT, FL

ORAL HEALTH EFFECTS OF TOBACCO: NY (dentist need only take a 2 hour course one time in career.)

CE Credit hours for dentists treating underserved: CT-10, FL-5, ID-5, MN-20, NJ-3, NV-6, WV-5

ETHICS CE required: IN

(1) Dental Lab Technicians-8 hours of C.E. every 2 years.

(2) Dentists get max. 20 hrs. of C.E., Hygienist & Assistants 10 hrs. every 2 years for providing volunteer care.

(3) Only Advanced Dental Assistants must fulfill continuing education requirements.

(4) Dental Hygienists and Dental Assistants who operate x-ray machines must take twelve hours C.E. in radiology.

(5) CE waived partially or entirely for active duty military. Check with the dental board for details.

(6) Dentists-4 hours CE within two years of initial licensure on medical consequences of an act of terrorism.

Legend: x-Regulations regarding CE pending, r-revised.

Sources of Information: State statutes, regulations, dental board policies, AADE Composite

@ American Dental Association

Department of State Government Affairs

August 16, 2006

#04-Continuing Education



WDA Testimony in Support of AB 153 Mandatory Continuing Education for Dentists

**Dr. Fred Jaeger, WDA Past President
Assembly Health Committee Public Hearing
Tuesday, March 20, 2007 - 11:00 AM – GAR Hearing Room**

Good morning, Madame Chair and members of the Assembly Health Committee. My name is Dr. Fred Jaeger. I am a general dentist who practices right here in Madison and I recently served as president of the Wisconsin Dental Association (WDA).

After four years of undergrad at the University of Notre Dame, I attended four years of dental school at Marquette University School of Dentistry. I graduated with my doctorate in dentistry in 1980, after which I did a one-year residency in general dentistry at St. Mary's Hospital, Rochester, New York. I review my education and training because, with the exception of the one-year residency, my path is similar to the path which most of my colleagues have followed. You can see that in order to practice dentistry, a person has to be willing to embrace multiple years of higher education. Reviewing the educational requirements needed to earn a dental degree puts into perspective how minimal this CE requirement really is.

I'm here today to testify in support of AB 153 which would require all licensed dentists to take 30 hours of continuing education (CE) during each two-year licensure period. The bill would further clarify that 25 of the 30 CE hours must be of a clinical nature. Wisconsin is currently only one of three states without mandatory CE requirements for dentists. Wyoming and Colorado are the other two states.

Here in our state, we are one of only two health care professions (nursing being the other) that is not currently required to take mandatory CE. The dentists in this state are committed to promoting professional excellence and quality oral health care for the citizens of the State of Wisconsin. In an effort to demonstrate that commitment, the WDA has strongly encouraged dentists to take continuing education to stay abreast of advancements in the art and science of dentistry. We believe the vast majority of dentists already meet these CE requirements each year. It is time for organized dentistry to go on record in favor of continuing education in a way that publicly declares the profession's commitment to lifelong learning.

Regarding the fiscal estimate, it is our understanding that the bill draft would allow an audit to be authorized by the Dentistry Examining Board (DEB). The passage of this bill would not automatically require an audit be conducted but simply provide an estimate of what it would cost, should the DEB decide to require a routine audit. We would appreciate clarification that the DEB and not the DORL is the entity that determines the necessity and/or frequency of this of an audit. This remains the one outstanding issue we have with the current bill draft; we believe that the fiscal estimate is not a necessity of the current language in the bill.

The WDA thanks Representatives Strachota and Molepske and Senators Erpenbach and Darling for their leadership and efforts on this bill. We continue to encourage bi-partisan support for this bill as it moves through the legislative process and we ask for your support as this bill comes up for a vote before this committee. Thank you for your time and attention. I would be happy to take any questions you might have.

MISSION STATEMENT

The Wisconsin Dental Association advances the interests of its members and the dental profession by promoting professional excellence and quality oral health care for the public.

Executive Office: 6737 West Washington Street • Suite 2360 • West Allis, Wisconsin 53214 • 414.276.4520 • 414.276.8431 FAX
Legislative Office: 10 East Doty Street • Suite 509 • Madison, Wisconsin 53703 • 608.250.3442 • 608.282.7716 FAX